

I, DALE RICAHRD SCHREINER WAS STATIONED ABOARD THE BATTLE SHIP U.S.S. OKLAHOMA WHEN THE JAPANESE ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR ON A SUNDAY MORNING DEC 7 1941 AT APPROXIMATELY 7-50 – 7-55 AM. I WAS A PORT SIDE DECK HAND ON THE CAPTAINS (GIG) PRIVATE BOAT. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE DOCKS AT THE BASE AND PICK UP THE CAPTAIN, WHO SPENT SAT & SAT EVENING ASHORE. I HAD CHANGED TO A CLEAN SUIT OF WHITES (UNIFORM AT THE TIME) AND WAS WALKING DOWN TOPSIDE MAIN DECK TOWARD THE BOW (WHERE THE CAPTAINS GIG WAS TIED UP) AND REACHED FOR MY WALLET (TO MAKE SURE THAT I HAD IT) BECAUSE WE WOULD BE SPENDING A FEW HOURS ON THE BEACH WHILE WAITING FOR THE CAPTAIN. I HAD LEFT MY WALLET IN MY LOCKER SO HAD TO GO BACK DOWN TO 5th DIVISION QUARTERS TO RETRIEVE IT. THEN I HEARD A LOT OF LOUD EXPLOSIONS COMING FROM FORD ISLAND, AND THOUGHT SOMEONE WILL CATCH HELL, AS THIS IS SUNDAY. THEN A JAPANESE 2 SEATER, OPEN COCKPIT FLEW DOWN THE LENGTH FO THE OKIES MAIN DECK, FIRING HIS MACHINE GUN, HITTING PRETTY CLOSE TO ME AND WHEN I LOOKED UP AND SAW THE RISING SUN ON THE AIRCRAFT STRAFING THE SHIP, I KNEW THIS WAS IT, WHICH WE HAD EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME. BATTLE STATIONS SOUNDED OVER P.A. SYSTEM. EVERYONE WAS SUPPOSED TO GO BELOW WHEN IN AN AIR RAID. PEOPLE WENT DOWN THE HATCH IN A HURRY. THE COMPARTMENT WAS CROWDED WITH PERSONNEL AND SOMEONE HAD STARTED TO DOG (SECURE) THE HATCH DOWN BY LOCKING IT IN PLACE. BUT MY INSTINCT TOLD ME, GET OUT, GET OUT, I KEPT AT IT UNTIL I CONVINCED THE PERSON TO OPEN IT AND LET ME GO TO MY GUN AS I WAS A TRAINER ON A 5:51 GUN MOUNT. I CLIMBED ON TOP OF PEOPLES HEAD AND SHOULDERS TO GET OUT BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I DIDN'T, MY TRAINING HAD TAKEN OVER THERE WERE 429 FELLOW SAILORS WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT OFF THE SHIP ALIVE THAT DAY.

I GOT OUT OF THERE AND HEADED FOR MY GUN MOUNT. THE TORPEDO'S STARTED THE SHIP LISTING HEAVILY BUT MADE IT TO MY GUN. I HAD A HARD TIME WALKING BACK UP TO THE STARBOARD SIDE BECAUSE THE GUN WOULD BE USELESS ANYWAY, AND COMING DOWN TOWARD ME WAS THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, I THINK HIS NAME WAS COMMANDER KENWORTHY, BUT COULD BE WRONG, HIS FACE TOLD ME. HE COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING. I KEPT CLIMBING UP TO THE STARBOARD SIDE AND JUMPED OFF HIT MY LEG ON THE BLISTER (WHICH WERE WATER TIGHT COMPARTMENTS TO TAKE THE SHOCK OF TORPEDO'S IF HIT. AT THAT TIME I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD TAKEN 4 OR MORE TORPEDO'S ON THE PORT SIDE, TO CAPSIZE THE SHIP. I HIT THE WATER AND HEADED FOR THE MARYLAND WHICH WAS TIED UP TO FORD ISLAND DOCK. THE POST MASTER OF THE OKIE KEPT GRABBING ON TO ME, AND I TOLD HIM, LET GO AND WE WILL BOTH MAKE IT. HE ONLY WEIGHED 200 LBS AND IWAS ONLY 130 POUNDS DRIPPING WET, BUT WE MADE IT AND CLIMBED UP THE NETS WHICH WERE DROPPED, FOR PEOPLE TO CLIMB UP TO THE MAIN DECK. THERE WERE SO MANY SAILORS MANNING THE GUNS SO I WENT TO FORD ISLAND ARMORY AND TOOK AN 03 RIFLE AND PISTOL WITH AMMUNITION. I WAS SHOOTING AT THE LOW FLYING PLANES WHEN THEY CAME OVER AS THEY WERE STRAFFING THE MEN & PLANES & BUILDINGS ON THE GROUND AND ALSO THE BURNING,

SMOKING SHIPS.

I WAS MAD AND I KNOW THAT ONE PLANE WAS HIT BY MY RIFLE FIRE BECAUSE THEY WERE SO CLOSE AND I WAS A GOOD SHOT. THERE WAS S A SECOND WAVE OF BOMBERS AND FIGHTERS ABOUT 9:30 AND POUNDED US AGAIN., BUT MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS ALREADY DONE IN THE FIRST WAVE. SOMEHOW AFTER THE ATTACK, A LOT OF DISPLACED PERSONNEL WERE MOVED TO THE NEAR BY CANE FIELDS, GIVEN WEAPONS AND SET UP AREA'S FOR EATING & SLEEPING & BEING LOOK OUT FOR PARATROOPERS WHICH THE RUMORS SAID WERE HAPPENING, AS THE JAPS WANTED TO TAKE OVER PEARL HARBOR

SEVERAL OF THE COMMANDERS IN OUR AREA WERE IN SHOCK LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE AND SCARED, IT WAS A NITEMARE AT NITE, EVERYONE JUMPY, WORRIED ABOUT THE PARATROOPERS COMING AND FIRING AT THE FICTITIOUS ENEMY (MOSTLY IN THE AIR) AND SCARING THE HELL OUT OF EVERYONE.

I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S.S. CHESTER, A HEAVY CRUISER ON THE 16th DAY OF DECEMBER. MOST OF THE PERSONNEL WENT TO DIFFERENT SHIPS(THAT WERE OUT TO SEA DURING THE ATTACK) AND WERE NOT DAMAGED IN ANY WAY

I STAYED ABOARD THE U.S.S. CHESTER UNTIL JUNE 1944 WHEN I WAS TRANSFERRED TO WASHINGTON D.C. FOR GUNNERY SCHOOL (NEW WEAPONS) AS I WAS A GUNNERS MATE

DURING THE NEXT 2 1/1/ YEARS, WE HAD MANY HARROWING EXPERIENCES, SOME GOOD, SOME NOT, RAIDING THE JAPANESE ISLANDS, SUPPORTING INVASIONS, INVOLVED IN SEA BATTLES, BEING BOMBED AND ALSO TORPEDO'ED AND HAVING THE HELL SCARED OUT OF US AT TIMES BUT WE SURVIVED .

AFTER SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON, TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SHIP AND MADE THE INVASION OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, AND THEN OKINAWA. THAT WAS THE MOST DEVESTATING, AS THE JAP PLANES, CALLED KAMKAZIES WERE LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES AND THEY WERE DESPERATE. THEY WOULD DIVE INTO THE SHIPS, TRYING TO BLOW THEM UP, USING SMALL BOATS TO ATTACH CHARGES TO THE UNDERSIDE OF SHIPS TO BLOW THEM UP & WHATEVER IT TOOK TO TRY & STOP US FROM TAKING OKINAWA. THIS WENT ON FOR 90 DAYS, AS WE INVADDED THEM ON EASTER SUNDAY 1945, ONE SUNDAY MORNING, A SINGLE PLANE CAME INTO OUR AREA & I SHOT HIM DOWN BY MYSELF WITH A PROXIMITY FUSE ON A 5:38 ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY. IT WAS ONLY WAY TO GET HIM AS THIS TYPE OF ORDANCE WAS BANNED FROM BEING USED OVER ENEMY TERRITORY, AS IT WAS SECRET AMMUNITION.

WE WERE IN OKINAWA WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DIED AND WHEN THE ATOMIC BOMB WAS DROPPED ON JAPAN. MADE 2 DSIFFERENT TRIPS TO JAPAN & CHINA AFTER THE WAR WAS OVER AND THEN PUT SOME SURPLUS SHIPS OUT OF COMMISSION AT PLACES LIKE PORTLAND OREGON, PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD AND VIRGINIA BEACH VIRGINIA.. WHEN I LEFT THE SERVICE.

AT LEAST I WAS PART OF U.S. HISTORY BECAUSE ON DEC 7 1941, WE WERE NOT AT WAR UNTIL THE NEXT DAY DEC 8 1941 BY FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT THE THEN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES